### THE INTERVIEW

#### WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

**University of Washington School of Medicine**

### THINK OF THE INTERVIEW AS A SUPPLEMENT TO YOUR APPLICATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What we get from the application</th>
<th>What we get from the interview</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Motivation</td>
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<td>• Clinical exposure</td>
<td>• Communication skill/empathy</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Service</td>
<td>• Problem solving skill</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Leadership</td>
<td>• Your understanding of medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Research</td>
<td>• How well you know yourself</td>
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<td>• Other’s opinions of you</td>
<td>• Evidence of curiosity</td>
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<td>• Academic ability</td>
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PREPARING FOR YOUR INTERVIEW

Motivation = passion for the career; well thought through– don’t repeat your application.

Role play = Be yourself. Have a conversation with the person(s) in the play. Demonstrate communication skills, empathy, analytical skills.

   Can we picture you as a physician?

Understanding of medicine = Do you know what your life will be like?
   Knowledge of self
   Are you likely to enjoy your career or will you be disillusioned?

Health care delivery & Social determinants of health = What are the current issues?
Why are there differences in the health care that people get?

ROLE PLAY

• Consider context of person’s issue.
• Don’t jump to solution
• What are the pertinent socio-economic factors?
• How does the person FEEL about the situation and why?
• Don’t have too many voices in your head, including mine.
• Just engage.
COMMUNICATION AND INTERPERSONAL SKILLS

- Listen actively
- Make yourself understood
- Be clear and don’t ramble
- Put yourself in someone else’s shoes
- Respect others’ opinions
- Allow for different values
- Don’t judge

ROLE PLAY

WE ARE NOT INTERESTED IN, NOR DO WE EXPECT A DIAGNOSIS

Example: a patient who has lung disease and is doing something unhealthy (e.g. smoking).

- Don’t get too medical (e.g. when do you cough? Do you bring up phlegm?)
- Go for context:
  - How does smoking affect you?
  - How do you feel after you smoke?
  - How are you coping with this illness/situation?
  - What is your support system?
PROBLEM SOLVING SKILLS
HOW DO YOU APPROACH SOMETHING UNFAMILIAR?

- Define the problem
- What do you know?
- What do you need to know?
- How are you going to gather information?
- What will you do with information?

- Think out loud
- Process is more important than solution
- Support solutions with information gathered
- Generate alternative solutions

It is fine to say “I don’t know,”

Then say, “Here’s how I would find out.”
UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU ARE GETTING INTO PARTICULARLY IN THE UNITED STATES

• How has technology changed medicine? (for better or worse)
• How will health care likely be delivered in the near future?
• What types of medical practices are there?
• What is the role of a doctor in a community?
• Who pays for medical care? How?
• What frustrates doctors?

KNOWLEDGE OF SELF
REALISTIC ASSESSMENT OF STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES, BIASES

What makes you happy?
What frustrates you?
What pushes your buttons?
What are you really good at?
What are you working on?
What should you be working on?
What have you done with feedback you’ve received?
In what ways are you suited for a career in medicine?
DISCUSSING YOUR FUTURE PLANS
ROLE MODEL

• Although you don’t need to commit to a specialty, you should have some vision based on things you know about yourself, including where you want to live or who you want to take care of.
• Did you identify with any of the doctors you shadowed? Why or why not?
• Consider practice content and physician personality.
• Keep goals consistent with experience.
• Don’t talk about a future in bench research in your application, but come to interview and discuss your passion for rural health.

HEALTH CARE DELIVERY
THIS IS YOUR FUTURE. ARE YOU AWARE OF PROBLEMS FACING MEDICINE AND SOCIETY?

Awareness demonstrates curiosity and self-directed lifelong learning.
What will be the obstacles you’ll face trying to take care of your patients?

- Costs/ Insurance
- Disparity
- Access/ Mal-distribution
- Food deserts
- U.S. patient expectations
- Language
HOW TO IMPROVE

• Join pre-health groups if you are still in college
• Check out health related media stories
• Ask current health care providers what they think
• AAMC website- aamc.org
• AMA website-ama-assn.org
• Medical journals

HOW TO BE COMFORTABLE IN AN INTERVIEW SETTING

• Toastmasters
  • Speaking comfortably to a group of strangers
  • Accepting and giving feedback
  • Preparing for leadership positions
• Take an Improvisation class
• Get out of your comfort zone
GENERAL TIPS:

- Don’t use the same examples you used in your application.
- Think out loud if question starts with “how” or “what”
- Don’t overdo active listening. (Example—"Where do you see yourself in 15 years?)
- Prepare a final sound bite. What do you bring to the table?

IF MY INTERVIEW GOES WELL, WILL I BE ADMITTED?

Not necessarily
ADMISSION

• Great application + great interview = IN

• Good application + great interview = Alternate list

• OK application + OK interview = NO

• Great application + bad interview = NO

WE’RE ALL ABOUT GETTING TO “YES”

Tak | Oui | Hanji | Ken
Nai | Shi | Areh | Hai
Oo | Na’am | Si | Sim
Ha’an | Ja | Ano | Ndiyo
If you have further questions after the session please email them to:  
askuwsom@uw.edu 
Thank you